

# *"Keeping in Touch"*

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. Of Fish & Game  
Retirees/Families  
and Interested Former Employees



October 2008, Vol. 4, No. 4

## **Dates to Remember**

**Retiree Luncheon Schedule  
Golden Corral  
on Emerald in Boise  
11:30 a.m.**

**2008  
November 13**

**2009  
Jan. 8, March 12  
May 14, July 8, Sept. 10  
November 12**

**Christmas Wild Game Feed  
Friday, December 5**

## **Annual Wild Game Feed**

The date for the Christmas Wild Game Feed at Headquarters is set for Friday, December 5. All retirees are invited.

Also, if any of you have any pictures and/or stories you would like to share about your time with the Department (even anything handed down to you), Sharon Clark is putting together another handout for your amusement. So, get your brains working, people, and send them to Sharon at: Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Attn: Sharon Clark, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; or e-mail her at: [sclark@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:sclark@idfg.idaho.gov).

## **New Retirees**

Three more of you are joining the ranks of the retired Fish and Gamers. **Clay Cummins**, Enforcement Assistant Bureau Chief, retired effective September 15, 2008, after 27 years of service including temporary as well as classified time with the Department. Also, **Steve (Stephen) Anderson**, Budget "Steve" in Administration (Principal Financial Specialist) left the office August 29, officially retiring October 31, 2008. Senior Conservation Officer **Mark Armbruster** retired September 30, 2008.

A big WELCOME to the Retirees' group. *(If you haven't returned the postage paid card yet, please do. If you don't return it, we will take it that you don't want to receive the newsletter and be kept up to date on retiree and department happenings!)*

## **Platts Just Keeps Breaking Records!**

**Bill Platts** just can't help winning track and field championships! He reports, "Since I sent you the Harrison Classic Track and Field information, I have participated in the USA Track and Field National Championships in Spokane. I was the National Champion and gold medalist in the Javelin and increased my world record set in Eugene by 2.3 feet. The past world record holder before my Eugene throw was from Berlin,

Germany. I was also the National Champion and gold medalist in the Long Jump. During the new world record throw in the Javelin, I tore my inner thigh muscle and had to withdraw from the 100 and 200 meter dashes. I still had a good track meet. I healed well enough to win 6 gold medals in the Idaho State Senior Track and Field Championships held at Northwest Nazarene University last weekend."

*(The following item will fill you in on Bill's accomplishments.)*

October 8, 2008

World Record Broken at HWSGBY  
BOB HUDSON [bhudson@thespectrum.com](mailto:bhudson@thespectrum.com)

ST. GEORGE - Bill Platts of Boise, Idaho, had broken the world and American records in the javelin twice this year.

Make that three. Platts uncorked a toss of 128-feet-2 to dash his own mark by two-and-one-half feet in the Huntsman World Senior Games track and field meet on Tuesday.

Competing in the 80-84 year-old age division, Platts had previously broken the record in meets in Spokane, Wash. and Eugene, Ore.

"I got it on my first throw, which is lucky because I hurt my leg in the

*Continued on Page 7, See Platts*



**“Keeping in Touch,”  
a newsletter for IDFG Retirees/  
Families  
and Interested Former  
Employees  
is published quarterly by the  
IDFG Retiree Committee.**

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*All donations should be sent to  
the above address*

## **Treasurer's Report**

*(Jack Fisher, Treasurer for the Retirees' Group, thought you would like to know where your money is coming from and where it is going. So, here it is!)*

This newsletter, “Keeping in Touch,” is the 13<sup>th</sup> issue we have sent to IDFG retirees. It began in October 2005, following the biennial picnic in August 2005 (and the discontinuance of the IDFG Department's newsletter, “Contact.”)

We started with an idea and with \$528, which came from raffles and donations at the 2005 and six earlier reunion picnics. Today, we have a balance of \$517. We have been able to maintain this balance with donations from the newsletter recipients.

At present, we have 211 retirees on our list. We have received 36 donations totaling \$734 from 32 individuals (4 have contributed twice!). Of these participants, 16% of retirees have donated; some more than once. Of retirees, 38% receive the newsletter by e-mail and those retirees have contributed 50% of the total donations.

The money expended is for stamps, envelopes, post office box rental, photocopies, postcards and for two rubber stamps that were a one-time expense.

So far, we have lived on donations, but they have dropped off significantly. We need to keep these donations coming or the time will come when we will have to cease operations. Recently, in a discussion with an e-mail recipient (and others), I overheard the question, “Why should we donate; it doesn't cost anything to e-mail the newsletter?” That is not the case. This is an “all or nothing” situation for the retirees. When we run out of money, we will cease operations.

If and when the IDFG Department decides to reinstate “Contact” or something similar, we will quit and any remaining money will be donated to a worthy cause selected by the retirees as will be shown in the very last “Keeping in Touch.”

If anyone has any questions, or if you have forgotten if, when or how much you have donated in the past, call or e-mail Jack Fisher at: 884-0213; e-mail [jackfis@msn.com](mailto:jackfis@msn.com). Or Judy Fisher at: 888-1015; or e-mail [fisherjj@interplususa.net](mailto:fisherjj@interplususa.net).

Thanks for your help.-- *Jack Fisher*

## In Memoriam

**Kenneth A. MacKenzie** Kenneth Allen MacKenzie, age 92, of Roberts, died at home in Roberts September 22, 2008. He was born February 5, 1916 at Grass Range, Montana to A.R. MacKenzie and Ebba Stevenson MacKenzie. Ken spent most of his growing up years in Montana. He moved to Arco where he worked in a mine. He worked at Craters of the Moon until the opportunity came to work for the Idaho Fish and Game. He worked for the Fish and Game for 36 years. He married Bertha Robinson, September 3, 1958 at Dillon, Montana.

He enjoyed fishing and duck hunting until his health failed. He is survived by his wife of 50 years Bertha and two stepchildren, Iris Layton of Lorenzo and Aldon (Kay) Robinson of Roberts.

Funeral services were held September 25, 2008 at the Eckersell Memorial Chapel. Burial was at the Market Lake Cemetery in Roberts, Idaho.

*(Thank you, Marge Luther, for letting us know about Ken. I have never received so many great stories about anyone before. It seems that Ken Mackenzie was a very special person, as you will see in the following:)*

“Mac was the CO who gave me my enforcement training back in about 1968-9 in and around the Market Lake WMA and Jefferson County. He was a gruff and tough individual and CO . . . feared and respected by most everyone. A former hard rock miner from Butte who had also worked for the Feds

at Craters of the Moon. He carried both a Federal Game Warden and an Idaho F & G CO badge and loved waterfowl. He was a good friend who I have thought about a lot over the years.”— *Al Bruner*

“Arline and I were saddened to hear of Ken’s death. With his passing the world lost one of its best.

“I met Ken while a U of I grad student doing field work in SE Idaho in 1956. While pulling a decadent Fish & Game trailer on my way to my field camp near Kilgore. I was pulled over in downtown Roberts by a vehicle with siren a blaring and lights flashing. Such was my initial introduction to Mackenzie!

“In my 30-years of working in the wildlife field, Ken proved to be one of the most memorable men I ever knew. His marvelous dry sense of humor served well to bring me back to the real world with a chuckle or two when I was smart enough to listen carefully. His caring and loyalty to his good friends was unrivaled.

“Late in the day when the 2-way radio in my vehicle crackled to life and announced 749 ten-seven, downtown Roberts I knew Ken was home after a long day.

So Ken we know that your last ten-seven will provide a well-deserved rest from the aches and pains of your final years.”— *John and Arline Crawford*

“A lot of us will remember Ken as a gentleman, a friend and an outstanding CO. I had the privilege of working next to him at Arco the

first five years of my career with the Department. It is with some sadness, but a lot of joy, for the memories of having known him for so many years to hear he has gone 10-7 downtown Roberts for the last time.”— Dale Baird

“I worked with Mac MacKenzie when he was a CO at Payette. Please let me know when services will take place.”— Bill Snow

“I am reminded of a day I spent with Mac in the high desert of Fremont County. It was about 1974 and I was a brand new Conservation Officer at St. Anthony. “I recall Mac referring to the mule deer and moose we saw that day as “trash wildlife.” For him, it was all about ducks and geese. “After several radio calls from IDFG-Idaho Falls interrupted our conversations, Mac responded to the next call by moving the mike further and further from his mouth and telling the caller that he was fading...fading...fading . . . . He ignored the radio for the rest of the afternoon even though the signal was loud and clear. It was a fun day and a fond memory. — Don Carr

### **Dale L. Tanner**

Just received word from Marty Luther via Les Trout that Dale Tanner passed away at home in Port Orchard, Washington on October 7, 2008. Dale, 91, was born in Bancroft, Idaho. He attended schools in Rigby, Idaho and graduated from Rigby High School. He was a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps from February 1943 to May 1946, serving as a gunner on B-17 and B-29 aircraft. He graduated from the University of Idaho School of Forestry and Wildlife Management

*continued on page 5*

## **Dale Tanner, *continued***

in 1950. He worked for the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game for 28 years as a Conservation Officer and Big Game Biologist, retiring in 1978.

Dale was a lifelong fisherman and enjoyed many years of golfing and sailing during his retirement. He is survived by Mary L. Tanner, his wife of 58 years, one daughter, two sons, three sisters and one brother, and three grandchildren. No services were held but a family memorial dinner will be held at a later date.

## **Elizabeth “Beth” Jane Bowler**

Elizabeth “Beth” Bowler, 91, mother of Retiree Bert Bowler, died of natural causes July 6, 2008, at her home in Boise. Beth’s family recently held a private memorial and sprinkled her ashes in her beloved garden. Beth was preceded in death by her husband Bruce Bowler in 2002. In honor of Beth, her family has endowed the Beth Bowler Memorial Hosta Walk at the University of Idaho’s arboretum. If you wish to help build this memorial to Beth, contributions may be made to the Beth Bowler Memorial Hosta Walk, University of Idaho Foundation, P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, ID 83844-3147.

Our deepest sympathies go out to all the families.

## **Ray Rogers’ Memorial Plaque**

*Ralph Pehrson* received word from *Jack McNeel* that **Ray Rogers’** memorial plaque has been installed at the Snow Peak Lookout. Also, Ray’s grandson, Eric, scattered his ashes at Snow Peak as Ray had

requested. *Annie Rogers*, Ray’s widow, said that Eric had talked with someone from IDFG and they mentioned something about mixing salt with the ashes so that goats would lick it up. That way, Ray would continue, in effect, to roam the countryside around Snow Peak. Jack also mentioned that Bill Carter also requested the same thing before he died early last spring and his ashes were also scattered at Snow Peak.

## **News from You Retirees!**

*Jack McNeel* said he had thought about making the trip to Snow Peak “but between being gone much of the summer (Alberta, Oregon, Montana twice, Wyoming, Oklahoma), I just didn’t have time. Not sure I had the strength anyway. The ‘golden years’ have some very definite drawbacks!! as I guess we all find out. (*Ah, come on, Jack, it ain’t that bad! -- jf*)

“Other than being active traveling, then writing about it, don’t have much new going on. I did make it down to Lewiston about a month ago and had some outstanding steelhead fishing. Five of us, including my wife, landed about 20 steelhead in four hours of fishing. They were split evenly between wild and hatchery fish so we were able to limit out on the hatchery fish. Besides that, it was T-shirt weather by noon – unheard of in my past steelheading experiences.”

**What Is It?** I received an e-mail last July that was a little different. No message, just a picture of an x-ray. Puzzled by what I was seeing, I e-mailed back to make sure of what it was. And I learned

from *Sandy Cudmore* that *Pat* had undergone neck surgery on June 30. He says he is doing fine and he seemed to be doing okay when I saw him at *Tracey Trent’s* retirement dinner.

And we understand *Nancy Richards* spent a few days in the hospital for tests. What I hear through the grapevine is that she is doing okay.

And *Jean and Osborne “Myra” Casey* are back from Montana for the winter. He is doing much better healthwise now that they discovered the problem.

As you will recall, *Kent Ball* has been having problems with his knee replacements. Doctors have finally found the correct drug for him and he is now getting around “like a real person and trying to get the million things done that backed up when I couldn’t do anything.” He is starting to think about going South again for the winter.

“All is well with the *Orcutts*. Peg retired August 1st and we celebrated by heading to the Washington coast to (you guessed it) fish. We caught ling cod, salmon and numerous bottom fish. We entered the king salmon fish derby at West Port Washington and much to my surprise I won first place by 2 ounces. I’ve always wanted that distinction and now I want to win it twice. Next year!

“Our trip to Alaska this summer had to wait with gas prices so high. There is so much to do and see right here in Idaho we didn’t

regret not going.

“Summer time was filled with plenty of verbal abuse from **Ralph Pehrson and Bill Platts** while fishing for kokanee in my boat. Ralph somewhere came up with a secret bait he refused to share. However, he was always insistent we net all his fish. He is now referred to as Mr. Fish Pehrson. Ralph also felt sorry for Bill sitting in the bow of the boat with no shade. He somewhere acquired a blue hooded lawn chair for Bill to use but as we soon discovered this chair had a mind of it's own. Every once in awhile it would decide to go swimming with Bill hanging on. I figured it was some sort of fish locator trying to help or Fish Pehrson's revenge. At any rate, the chair soon earned the name “The Blue Goose.”

“Hunting season is here and Peg and I will enjoy every minute. We just returned from our fall turkey hunt and planning to head south for sage grouse this weekend. We wish you all the best and still think of all our Fish and Game friends every day.”-- **Dick Orcutt**

*(Now, here's Ralph's version of the story!)*

### **The Tale of the Flying Blue Goose (Chair)**

**Participants: Ralph Pehrson – Bill Platts -- Dick Orcutt**“After having a very successful day of kokanee fishing at Anderson Ranch Reservoir, the fishermen pulled into the dock to load the boat. Dick Orcutt 's boat has two padded seats behind the windshield with a canvas canopy to block out the sun. The third person (Platts) would sit in the bow of the boat in a lawn chair which was very comfortable

except it was very hot. On this trip Ralph brought along his newly purchased canopy chair for Bill to use. (He thought it was great.) “When they pulled into the dock, all three got out of the boat and Dick and Ralph went to get the trailer while Bill held onto the boat. It was starting to get a little breezy but no whitecaps were showing on the reservoir. As Dick and Ralph were getting the trailer in position on the ramp, they heard Bill yelling for help. Looking out on the dock, they saw Bill waving his one free arm and pointing to an object that was rapidly sinking on the other side of the boat.

“While Ralph stayed with the vehicle and trailer, in case it had to be moved, Dick rushed back to Bill to see what was the problem. Bill informed him that a gust of wind had come up and somehow got under the canopy of the chair and gracefully lifted it off of the boat like a helium balloon and then gently dropped it into the reservoir on the other side of the boat. Bill didn't dare let go of the boat to save the chair as the boat would drift off with the wind.

“Looking over the situation, Dick jumped into the boat and grabbed the long-handled fish net and tried to reach the chair but it was in about 20 feet of water and the net handle was too short. He put his fishing pole back together and tied a large salmon hook on the end of the line. After several tries he managed to hook onto the chair but when he started to lift it up — the line broke! After some consultation with Bill they decided to rig up the anchor rope with a weight and try to snag the chair with that.“In the meantime, another boat pulled into the dock

with several people on board. A woman inquired if they were having a problem and when told of their dilemma, she said her teenage son could get it for them. She called the boy over and he was shown the chair lying on the bottom of the reservoir and he immediately dived in, head first, and grabbed the chair . . . what he didn't realize was that the chair was very heavy and he had a difficult time getting back to the surface. Bill and Dick reached down and grabbed his free hand and pulled him onto the dock. The boy never did let go of the chair so the retrieval was a success.

“All this time Ralph kept stationed on the ramp without realizing it was his chair they were trying to retrieve. He thought it was a tarp that Dick had in the boat for the dog to lie on. (Her name is Chloe and she is a chocolate lab that weighs about 100 pounds and goes everywhere that Dick goes.) “Word has circulated amongst several sportsmen so Ralph has been asked to donate the chair for a league auction that is coming up soon. Ben Simpson offered to kidnap the famous flying chair and take it to Arizona with him. So far, Ralph still has possession of it — a family treasure and heirloom.”

**From the Huffakers:** “Hi there, Since I retired we've just been so busy having fun and making up 'time off' we haven't taken the time to let everyone know what we're up to. Today I'm stranded in the house because my truck is in the shop, preventing the grouse hunt I had planned. So, here goes.

For the most part, we have been traveling. We've been on a number of one week to 6 week

out-of- state trips, either in the trailer or staying with friends. We've been to Alaska twice, North Dakota twice, Montana, Alberta, Arizona/Texas, Hawaii, New Hampshire/Maine/New York and Minnesota/Wisconsin/Iowa. Among all that, we've had many great Idaho trips and visits from friends around the country who came to Idaho.

The hunting, fishing and camping have been great. I finally figured out where the bigger smallmouth live in the spring -- at least on that day. I caught 18 bass over 16" that day. We're especially tickled that the perch are back at Cascade. Years ago I told the fish guys if they didn't get the perch fishery restored by the time I retired, I'd haunt them for a retirement project. Evidently they thought I meant it, and they got it done!

We just finished the remodel of the backyard -- so much for domestic duties. Plans for this fall are more of the same -- Alberta for geese in early Oct., a deer and elk hunt with old friends from Wisconsin, a Dakota bird trip, host quail hunts here for friends from Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska, chase local ducks, and then head to Arizona for doves, quail, and honest two pound crappies.

I've stayed involved in a few things -- the Board of Council for Environmental Ed., Project WILD Program Committee, the Sportsman Caucus Advisory

Committee, and most recently an ad hoc group Rod Sando put together to give salmon recovery advice to whoever gets elected this fall. Glenda stays busy doing lunches and coffees with her teacher buddies and her F&G family, and she is Secretary of the local Alpha Delta Kappa chapter. We also have had great fun with the grandkids, and are so very happy to have more time for family. We both marvel at how we ever had time to work! Hope you are all well and staying busy. – *Steve and Glenda Huffaker*

**Camano Island, Washington:  
Pehrson Family Vacation  
Report:**

(Bryce, age 11, was the spitting champion as we walked across Deception Pass bridge and back.) On the Fourth of July, Edie rode with Alan (*Ralph and Edie's son*) to launch his boat in Port Susan. As she left with his car and the boat trailer, Alan told her to keep driving until she came to a stop sign and then to turn left. Well, she drove along past very nice houses when she saw a Dead End sign ahead. So, she pulled into a driveway to turn around. Ralph had told her that all a person needed to do was to keep their hands on the bottom of the steering wheel and turn it the direction you want to go.

Well, she tried, and the trailer went where she wanted it, but she couldn't get the vehicle onto the road. A man with a boat drove past, so she thought she would wait for another boat driver to come along and sure enough, she flagged one down

and he told her that the road didn't really dead end, but to just follow him. By that time she had forgotten about turning left at the first stop sign, so she followed him as he turned left onto the highway and she missed the turn to go to the beaches where she was to meet Alan.

So she drove until she saw some women taking a walk, and they told her take the next left, where she turned around in a school parking lot; then as she traveled back on the highway, she zoomed past the exit to the beaches again, so she drove until she saw a man doing some landscaping. He kindly drove the car up where it was safe to turn around, then bid her good luck.

Alan, in the meantime, had caught a ride with someone to take him to look for her. He thought, "Did Mom make a turn too sharp and she's in the ditch somewhere. I didn't have the lights on the trailer connected. Did the sheriff pick her up and give her a ticket?" Boy was he glad to see his vehicle, trailer and Edie all safe. Saturday, Ralph, Darain and Alan went crabbing. It was a windy day and the waves were high, so they were shocked to see two men get in a canoe. About an hour later, Darain noticed a green cooler floating, and an overturned canoe, with a couple heads bobbing at each end, and once in a while he could see part of a red life jacket which one of the men was trying to put on. They were both trying to get on top of the canoe. So Alan drove his boat over, and he, Ralph and Darain



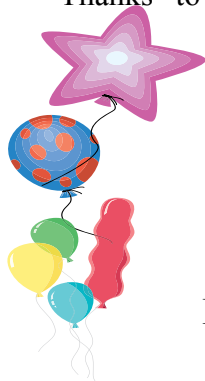
pulled the men into their boat. Then the men asked if Alan would tow their canoe back to shore.

When they arrived back at shore, there were fire trucks, policemen and an ambulance and a search and rescue crew. The first thing they asked, "Was anyone else still in the water?" When Alan said, "No," then everyone cheered, including those who had called Emergency from their nice houses above the Bay. One fellow stayed on shore with the canoe, but the other one asked Alan to take him out to retrieve their crab pots. Even with a boat and motor it was very difficult with the waves as high as they were. All pots have to be out of the bay by sunset on Saturday and there is no crabbing on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. They had five pots so it would have been a huge fine but not worth risking their lives for. We ate s'mores around the firepit that night. One day as Pam (*Edie and Ralph's daughter-in-law*) left to go to work, she asked us to put the Labradors out and lock both back doors when we left the house. Sadie went out, but Buster, looked at us, like, "You can't tell me what to do. You aren't my master." The harder we tried, the more he burrowed down, first he lay on his stomach, and then he lay on his side and put his head as low as he could get, so finally I opened the frig, rattled some paper and tore off two small pieces of ham. Buster followed me to the door, where I gave Sadie one piece and told her, "That's for being obedient." And then Buster got one." "I know, it was a bribe." – *Edie and Ralph Pehrson*

### Thank You to Some Special People

I think now is a good time to thank the Communications Bureau for making this newsletter a priority. Thanks, *Mike Keckler*, for your permission to allow the retirees to have a place on the Department's website. And for allowing your staff to assist us in getting it there. Especially for *Linn French's* and *Donna Dillon's* time preparing it for the website. We truly appreciate it and it makes the retirees feel as if we are still a part of the best Department in the State of Idaho.

I also want to express my appreciation to *Jo Toomey* for her editing skills. She volunteered to prepare *Frank NeSmith's* columns for the website and has always been a great proofreader. She has saved me from a few embarrassing "boo-boos" in the newsletter. A grateful "Thanks" to all of you for your help and support. – *Judy Fisher*



### Happy Birthday to:

**Ralph Pehrson, 78,      October 27**  
**Gary Phillips,          October 20**  
**Donna Dillon, Bureau of Communications,**  
**December 1**

**Platts,**  
**continued from page 1**  
long jump," Platts said. Typical of the seniors who compete, Platts had entered other events.

Platts is a retired fishery scientist who ran cross country at the University of Idaho shortly after World War II.

"I never knew what the javelin was until I was 71 or 72," Platts recalled. "I got hurt in the sprints and was looking for something else to do. I thought I could jump up to the line. My first meet I threw in I finished last."

Platts said this is his fourth trip to the Games. "This is one of the better meets in the nation. It's run to perfection, very professional. When there's a record, they know what to do." Keep it up, Bill!! We're proud of you!



***Happy Holidays to Everyone!***